



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 5.1 percent for February 2002 as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was up four-tenths of a percentage point from January's rate of 4.7 percent, and up one and nine-tenths of a percentage point from the February 2001 rate of 3.2 percent. The number of individuals employed increased from January to February by 1,300 individuals, while an increase of 900 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 11,900 in January to 12,800 in February. The increase in the number employed and the increase in the number unemployed created a net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 2,200 individuals from January to February 2002; year-over-year, there was a net increase of 9,500 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the February 2002 labor force figures for all counties

**Treasure Valley Table 2: February 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	183,076	8,264	4.5	174,812
Adams	1,583	212	13.4	1,371
Boise	2,422	118	4.9	2,304
Canyon	70,251	4,597	6.5	65,654
Elmore	10,014	668	6.7	9,346
Gem	6,766	624	9.2	6,142
Owyhee	4,177	197	4.7	3,980
Payette	10,205	885	8.7	9,320
Valley	4,131	361	8.7	3,770
Washington	4,502	314	7.0	4,188
Statewide	693,797	39,121	5.6	654,676

in Southwest Idaho.

Nearly 2,100 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were added to the Boise City MSA between January and February 2002, with an increase of 800 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since February 2001. In *Goods-Producing*

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties**

	Feb 2002*	Jan 2002	Feb 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	253,300	251,100	243,800	0.9	3.9
Unemployment	12,800	11,900	7,800	7.6	64.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	4.7	3.2		
Total Employment	240,500	239,200	236,000	0.5	1.9
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	251,800	249,300	241,800	1.0	4.1
Unemployment	14,600	14,100	9,100	3.5	60.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	5.6	3.8		
Total Employment	237,200	235,200	232,700	0.9	1.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	227,400	225,300	226,600	0.9	0.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	49,900	50,100	53,300	-0.4	-6.4
Mining & Construction	15,400	15,400	15,400	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	34,500	34,700	37,900	-0.6	-9.0
Durable Goods	26,300	26,600	29,500	-1.1	-10.8
Lumber & Wood Products	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0	0.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,200	2,200	2,200	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,300	7,400	8,400	-1.4	-13.1
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,400	11,600	13,300	-1.7	-14.3
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,600	1,800	6.3	-5.6
Other Durable Goods	1,800	1,900	1,800	-5.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	8,200	8,100	8,400	1.2	-2.4
Food Processing	5,500	5,500	5,600	0.0	-1.8
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,600	1,500	1,500	6.7	6.7
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	700	900	14.3	-11.1
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	177,500	175,200	173,300	1.3	2.4
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,000	11,900	12,400	0.8	-3.2
Transportation	6,800	6,700	6,900	1.5	-1.4
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,200	5,200	5,500	0.0	-5.5
Trade	55,300	55,300	55,100	0.0	0.4
Wholesale Trade	12,600	12,500	12,700	0.8	-0.8
Durable Goods	7,800	7,700	7,800	1.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4,800	4,800	4,900	0.0	-2.0
Retail Trade	42,700	42,800	42,400	-0.2	0.7
General Merchandise Stores	5,400	5,500	5,500	-1.8	-1.8
Foods Stores	7,400	7,500	7,500	-1.3	-1.3
Eating & Drinking Places	15,200	15,100	14,800	0.7	2.7
Other Retail Trade	14,700	14,700	14,600	0.0	0.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,700	11,600	11,200	0.9	4.5
Services	61,900	61,200	59,900	1.1	3.3
Business Services	13,900	13,900	14,900	0.0	-6.7
Health Services	19,100	18,900	17,600	1.1	8.5
Hospitals	9,100	8,900	8,100	2.2	12.3
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	5,300	5,100	5,000	3.9	6.0
Other Services	23,600	23,300	22,400	1.3	5.4
Government	36,600	35,200	34,700	4.0	5.5
Federal Government	5,200	5,200	4,900	0.0	6.1
State Government	13,600	12,500	13,200	8.8	3.0
Education	4,600	3,600	4,400	27.8	4.5
Administration	9,000	8,900	8,800	1.1	2.3
Local Government	17,800	17,500	16,600	1.7	7.2
Education	11,700	11,500	11,000	1.7	6.4
Administration	6,100	6,000	5,600	1.7	8.9

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Industries, there was a loss of 200 jobs month-over-month with job losses in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (100), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (200) and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100) outpacing job gains in *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100) and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100) to create the net decrease. Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,400 jobs including losses in: *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (1,100), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (1,900), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100), *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100) and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100). No *Goods-Producing Industry* created a net increase in employment over the year, although those not mentioned earlier remained stable over the year. The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries gained 2,300 jobs between January and February 2002. Job increases in *Transportation* (100), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (100), *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* (100), *Health Services*, primarily *Hospitals* (200), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (200), *Other Services* (300), *State Government Education* (1,000), *State Government Administration* (100), *Local Government Education* (200), and *Local Government Administration* (100) outpaced job losses in *General Merchandise Stores* (100) and *Food Stores* (100) to create the net increase in the number of jobs in the Boise City MSA over the month. The large increase in employment in *State Government Education* occurred when faculty and staff at Boise State University returned to classes after winter break. Over the past year, there was an increase of 4,200 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with the most notable job gains reported in *Health Services* (1,500), primarily *Hospitals* (1,000), *Other Services* (1,200), and *Local Government Education* (700). The only *Service-Producing Industries* to experience a loss over the year were *Transportation*, *Communications & Electricity*, *Gas & Sanitary Services*; *Nondurable Goods Trade*; *General Merchandise Stores*, *Foods Stores* and *Business Service*.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Boise State University recently announced its proposal to ease budget cutbacks by eliminating 41 staff positions and raising student fees by more

than \$300 for the 2002-02 academic year. President Charles Ruch approved the plan, and the Idaho Board of Education must allocate the budget and vote on student fee proposals in April in order to make this plan final. The 41 positions eliminated include 22 faculty and 19 staff positions; 31 positions are now vacant or will be vacant from retirements at the end of the semester and the other ten employees will be laid off.

- Idaho Public Television (IPTV) announced in early March plans to eliminate four full-time positions due to recent budget cutbacks. The layoffs will occur in April, and will affect three employees as one of the positions eliminated was vacant. Eliminating the positions will save IPTV about \$146,500 annually.
- Albertson's Inc. announced plans in mid-March to close 116 stores and pull out of four markets in Texas and Tennessee. The 116 closures are in addition to the 165 drug and grocery stores that the company targeted for closure last July. In addition to the 116 closures in Memphis, Nashville, Houston, and San Antonio, Albertson's also will close three division offices that supported those stores. Company officials stated, "Exiting these underperforming markets finalizes another major chapter in the restructuring of our company; this will now allow us to focus resources on strategic markets that build shareholder value and offer opportunity for significant future growth."
- Big Sky Airlines recently announced that it would begin service between Boise and Billings on May 5, 2002. The new flights are designed to accommodate a growing demand for same-day business travel between the two cities as well as a number of possible connecting flights. The new nonstop service will use the 19-passenger Fairchild Metro turbo-prop plane. The two flights to Billings will depart from the Boise Airport at 6 a.m. and 3 p.m., while the flights to Boise (from Billings) will depart at 8:35 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
- Frontier Airlines also announced two nonstop round-trip flights from Boise to Denver, which will start June 24. Frontier is a Denver-based airline with service to several regions of the lower 48 states. The airline initially will use two versions of Boeing's 120-seat 737 on this route, but ultimately those aircrafts will be phased out and the company will use Airbus' 136-seat A319. The flights from Denver to Boise will be at 9 a.m. and 8:50 p.m. and the flights from Boise to Denver will depart at 7:05 a.m. and 12:55 p.m.
- Qwest Communication International announced in early March that it plans on opening a new cus-

customer service call center in Boise this summer. The 290-employee Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) technical support center will open in July. Currently, DSL customers receive technical support that is provided by contract workers located in a variety of areas throughout the west; the new call center will replace those contract workers.

- The Meridian City Council approved an \$833,000 contract in mid-March to develop the first 25 acres of Settler's Park, which will eventually become Meridian's largest park. The first phase of the park will include six soccer fields, a picnic shelter, and a 231-space parking lot. This phase is scheduled to begin this spring. The second phase, which could begin in 2003, may consist of additional soccer fields, a playground, an indoor ice rink, and an area for outdoor gatherings such as farmers' markets. The new regional park will be located at the corner of Ustick and Meridian Roads.
- Roaring Springs Water Park has plans to open May 18 when it will unveil a new slide, The Avalanche, and the addition of a beach area for volleyball and sandcastle construction. The Avalanche, currently under construction, is one of only about 35 such slides in the world. Improvements are expected to cost \$350,000.
- Information regarding the proposed Hewlett-Packard-Compaq merger was released throughout the month. Compaq Computer Corp. investors gave approval to Hewlett-Packard's (HP) \$20 billion acquisition of the company after HP officials announced the slim-margin victory in the shareholder vote. HP shareholders voted on whether or not the merger should continue. HP President Carly Fiorina, announced a "slim but sufficient" majority in favor of the deal. The recently released preliminary proxy vote count reconfirmed the majority vote.
- In March, MicronPC announced several new products, including two compact servers and a new laptop. The NetFRAME 1500 and NetFRAME 2500 were introduced in early March following the introduction of NetFRAME 3500 in December. NetFRAME 1500 is five times smaller than the original model (NetFRAME 3500), and NetFRAME 2500 is 2.5 times smaller than the original. MicronPC says that the new configuration allows the new servers to be stacked 42 and 21 to a rack, respectively. Both models are equipped with two Pentium 3 processors, allowing the servers to process two information requests simultaneously. The company also unveiled a new laptop, the TransPort GTX3, which is one of the few laptop computers available with the mobile version of the Pentium 4 processor. The new notebook is the only U.S.-manufactured note-

book computer with fingerprint scanners that allow only authorized users to boot them up. For information on either product, please see the company website at www.micronpc.com.

- Former Nampa Mayor Maxine Horn has opened a new business, Maxine Horn & Co. Realtors, at 912 Twelfth Avenue South; Maxine and her daughter, Cindy Oliver, specialize in new home sales.
- The Real Estate Store, located at 1116A 12th Avenue South in Nampa, held a grand opening celebration on March 6. The Real Estate Store offers regular real estate brokerage services and features a showroom set up with display listings for all of south-west Idaho, which customers can look through independently.
- The Yesteryear Shoppe, a used bookstore located at 1211 First Street South in downtown Nampa, is expanding. The business purchased the space next to its current location to provide more room for merchandise as well as more space between bookshelves for customers. The store is open during the renovation, which is almost complete. Hours of operation are 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- Suicycle, a motorcycle, snowmobile, accessories and parts store that also provides service and repairs, recently reopened in its old location at 928 Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa. The store is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., .
- The Roasterè, a coffee shop located on the corner of Cleveland Boulevard and 21st in Caldwell in the former location of the Bean Hopper, celebrated its grand opening in March. The Roasterè offers over 100 kinds of whole-bean coffee, pastries, teas, coffee mugs, jams, and jellies. The coffee shop is open from 6:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.
- Best Inn and Suites, located on 901 Specht Avenue in Caldwell, recently changed its name to LaQuinta Inn. The hotel also is planning a remodeling project in the near future.
- The Melba Rural Health Clinic was in danger of closing due to financial struggles, but in mid-March, at a Melba City Council meeting, Terry Reilly Health Services Executive Director announced plans for the company to purchase the practice and equipment to keep the clinic in operation. Terry Reilly Health Services also will make several improvements including a new building and longer hours of operation; in addition to medical services, dental and social services also will be provided to patients. The acquisition was made possible by the approval of a \$390,000 federal grant, which is renewable each year. The existing clinic will be vacated, and the operations will move to a

new 3,200-square-foot facility that will be constructed about two blocks south on land donated by the owners of Swan Falls Produce at Broadway and Second Streets.

Boise County

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort extended its season by an additional week because of unseasonable heavy snowfall in mid-March. The resort remained open through April 14, a week later than usual. Bogus Basin had a record-breaking season with more than 336,000 skier visits.

Elmore County

- Kmart Corporation announced that it will close the Mountain Home Kmart as part of its closure of 284 stores nationwide. The company did not offer any transfers to employees of the corporation involved in the 284 store closings, but employees are encouraged to apply for Kmart jobs elsewhere. The Mountain Home Kmart employed 170 persons at one time, although recent slowdowns have decreased that number. The store is expected to close sometime in May 2002, when stock and inventory levels are depleted. The closing is not expected to have a large impact on the property tax rolls for the county, but the number of jobs lost is added to a number of closures that occurred recently in downtown Mountain Home.

Gem County

- Emmett Ford owner, Dave Vaughn, recently announced plans to close his Ford Dealership located on West Main Street in Caldwell. Dave decided to retire and close the business after 27 years in operation. The Ford Company will purchase the parts and new vehicle inventory of Emmett Ford, and the used cars will be sold. The closure will leave about 15 employees without jobs; some will retire and others will look for new positions.

Payette County

- In early March, the Payette City Council unanimously approved Resolution 241, which allows Russ Manwaring or Resource Conservation and Development to apply for a Department of Commerce grant on behalf of Pine Pride, a furniture manufacturer in Payette. The grant is awarded to wood products businesses that use wood resources from federal lands. To qualify for the grant, the company must be sponsored by the city; the city also will be the lien holder on the equipment purchased with the grant monies. The maximum grant value, if awarded, is \$50,000, and Pine Pride must have matching funds of 20 percent, or \$10,000.
- The Idaho Division of Professional Technical Education recently awarded a grant to the New Plymouth High School Agriculture Science and Tech-

nology Department. The nearly \$10,000 grant monies will be used to update and modernize the greenhouse facility used by students. The new equipment will include mist timers for temperature relation, hydroponics lab, and a fertilizer injector unit.

Valley County

- In mid-March, the Idaho State Land Board voted to begin formal negotiations to lease state land to the developers of the proposed WestRock resort on Lake Cascade. This vote puts the project a step closer to approval. The Idaho Department of Lands and the developers have a difference in opinion on how much money WestRock would pay the state in rent for the 2,124 acres on West Mountain where a proposed ski area will be built. A deadline for the negotiations was not set, although WestRock developers hope to bring a finished lease to the Land Board in April. Governor Kempthorne stressed that the approval for negotiations is not an approval for the project; it is just the next step in the process.

Washington County

- Rodex Industries, with help from Lisa Wolfe, has announced plans to expand into new facilities. Rodex Industries manufactures the Rodex 4000 anti-gopher gun. The company stated that increased national and international sales of the product were reasons for the expansion. Lisa Wolfe, Washington and Adams County Economic Development Facilitator, helped Rodex get in touch with state and federal programs available to assist rural Idaho businesses to expand markets and create new jobs. The company explored the feasibility of building a new facility in Midvale, which would increase the capacity from the current 20 employees to between 40 and 45 employees. The planned 15,000-square-foot facility will allow the company to consolidate all of its manufacturing and marketing functions, and allow for expansion and more efficient production.

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